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BY MARY ANNE OSTROFF



Author Charges CIA 'Rubbed' Vatican Book

THE CO-AUTHOR OF *Averting Armageddon*, a new Doubleday book that takes an intimate look at the Reagan administration's connections to the Vatican, is accusing the publishing house of editing out sensitive material after "getting pressure" from Washington officials.

Gordon Thomas said that some 140 manuscript pages, including descriptions of the Reagan administration's "sometimes embarrassingly

close" relationship to the Holy See, were cut. Also deleted was evidence that European intelligence agencies believe the Central Intelligence Agency covered up information about the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II. "I was told in Washington that pressures were brought to bear on the publisher by the State Department and the CIA," Thomas said. The manuscript is being published virtually uncut in 23

countries, including England and Canada.

"We had an entire conversation with a West German intelligence source who said the [CIA] rubbed the Bulgarian connection so as not to hinder American chances for carrying out a summit meeting with the Russians. This was cut," Thomas said.

Thomas and co-author Max Morgan-Witts said they were also disturbed that Doubleday,

without telling them, removed the code name of a CIA operative ("The Mad Mentor") after the publisher was contacted by a lawyer who threatened suit. The operative's code name appears in all the foreign versions.

Doubleday's editor for the book, Anne Hukill, said she edited out only material that she thought was "so inside Vatican that most American readers would not understand."